REMARKS

This Reply is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated September 2, 2008. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, and 18-22 remain present in this application. In the present Office Action: claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, and 18-22 were rejected under 35 § U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,252,592 (hereinafter "King") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,544,299 (hereinafter "Wenstrand") and U.S. Patent No. 6,637,022 (hereinafter "Weeren").

With respect to the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 15, Applicants again note that King is directed to automatic tab scanning of graphically represented elements in program applications. Fig. 2 of King illustrates a prior art approach for labeling elements to indicate a tabbing order (which is substantially similar to the prior art approach shown in Applicants' Fig. 1). As noted at column 5, lines 20-35, according to King, visual elements are automatically scanned with visual elements being highlighted (i.e., receiving focus) individually one at a time in the sequential order defined by the tabbing order <u>without requiring an indication that the next visual element in the tabbing order is to receive focus</u>. That is, King teaches that automatic scanning obviates the need for labeling elements to indicate a tabbing order (as is shown in Fig. 2 of King). As such, King teaches away from providing an indication of a next visual element in a tabbing order.
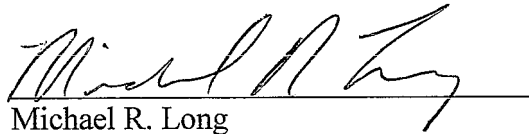
Applicants agree that Wenstrand utilizes illustrative arrows to indicate a direction in which subsequent data entry fields are brought in focus. Applicants also agree that Wenstrand does not disclose that linking elements with direction (e.g., arrows) are used in a graphical development environment. However, Applicants do not agree that Wenstrand suggests to a skilled artisan that linking elements with direction (e.g., arrows) may be used to graphically demonstrate a connection between visual elements. In fact, Wenstrand (which discloses automatically changing from a first focus group to a second focus group when data is entered into a predetermined data field of the first focus group) clearly does not teach or suggest the use of linking elements with direction to graphically demonstrate a connection between visual elements. Moreover, Wenstrand Fig. 1 is included for illustrative purposes and Wenstrand is not directed to a graphical development environment. Additionally, while Weeren discloses a graphical development environment that graphically represents a program flow as a sequence of icons connected by arrows, one or ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Weeren with King, as King specifically teaches away from providing an indication of a next

visual element in a tabbing order and teaches the superiority of sequentially highlighting elements to indicate a tabbing order (which in this respect is substantially similar to Wenstrand). Moreover, Weeren is directed to graphically representing program flow and is not directed to indicating a tabbing order of elements of a data entry screen.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are allowable over the applied art of record. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-14, 16, and 18-22 are also allowable for at least the reason that the claims depend on allowable claims.

Prior to action on this Reply, Applicants request an additional telephone interview with the Examiner. The undersigned attorney may be reached at (512) 617-5521.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Long
Reg. No. 42,808
DILLON & YUDELL LLP
8911 North Capital of Texas Highway, Ste. 2110
Austin, Texas 78759
Telephone (512) 617-5521
Facsimile (512) 343-6446

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)